

Mr. Laubscher's passion for historic treasures and his advocacy have transformed the city's public transportation system.

Mr. Laubscher's roots run deep in San Francisco. His family has lived here for four generations. Mr. Laubscher fell in love with streetcars as a little boy when they were not historic. He was washing dishes and helping his father in the delicatessen on Market Street that his grandfather had opened. He calls Market Street a true urban main street.

When the streetcars were planned to be dismantled in the early 80's, he set out on a quest to preserve them. He was not the first to think of the idea, but he was the first to do it; he put history to work and preserved our urban fabric, as he likes to say. Today thousands of people each day ride the historic cars.

Mr. Laubscher also served as founding board chair of The City Club of San Francisco, a landmark of world renowned art and architecture and a promoter of active engagement and influence in civic, social and business areas. He also served on SPUR's board and transportation committee. He is currently a board member of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

Accompanying his love of San Francisco and history, Mr. Laubscher has a passion for communication. He runs Messagesmith, a strategic communications consulting company specializing in such areas as environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

Mr. Laubscher holds an M.S. from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and worked as a radio and television news reporter for many years.

He lives in Woodside with his wife of sixteen years, Nicole. They are the proud parents of three daughters. Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to acknowledge the outstanding achievements and lasting contributions of Rick Laubscher to San Francisco and the rest of the world.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
RABBI ALAN B. LETTOFSKY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Rabbi Alan B. Lettotsky who is retiring from Beth Israel—The West Temple in Cleveland in Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

Affiliated with Judaism's Reform Movement, Beth Israel serves the Jewish Community of Cleveland's west side and western suburbs and is the only synagogue geographically located in the City of Cleveland. Beth Israel's roots go back to 1910 when the West Side Jewish Center was founded on Cleveland's Near West Side. It merged with Beth Israel in 1957 to form Beth Israel—The West Temple.

Born and bred in Cleveland, Alan Lettotsky was educated at Brandeis University, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Yale University. He serves Beth Israel—The West Temple as their part-time rabbi while also teaching Modern Hebrew and Jewish History at Kent State University. He was Associate

Professor at the Siegal College of Judaic Studies and at Case Western Reserve University for several years. He has taught in the Religion Department at John Carroll University.

Rabbi Lettotsky started his career as Visiting Professor at the Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and then taught for three years in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. Throughout most of his professional career, Rabbi Lettotsky worked for Hillel, the Jewish campus ministry—for ten years as the director of Hillel at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and for 13 years as the Regional Director of Hillel in Northeastern Ohio. Dedicated to egalitarianism and self-empowerment in Jewish communal prayer and fellowship, Rabbi Lettotsky co-founded and actively participated in the Library Minyan which met in the library of Congregation Beth Am in Cleveland Heights in the 1980s and 90s.

In recent years, Rabbi Lettotsky has been a member of a small committee of the Rabbinical Assembly that is preparing a new High Holy Day prayerbook for Judaism's Conservative Movement. In the early 1990s, Rabbi Lettotsky was one of 12 rabbis who served on the Commission on Human Sexuality of the Rabbinical Assembly. That Commission issued a Rabbinic Letter on Intimate Relations, entitled "This Is My Beloved, This Is My Friend."

I was pleased to know Rabbi Lettotsky in 2000 when other civic leaders and I worked to stop the shutdown of several hospitals in the greater Cleveland area. Rabbi Lettotsky spoke out with religious leaders of a wide diversity of faiths to stress the spiritual importance of healing the sick and making health care available to all. Rabbi Lettotsky continues to serve as part-time chaplain at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I am pleased to honor Rabbi Lettotsky and thank him for his many years of dedication and service to the community. I wish him, his wife of more than 40 years, Jean Loeb Lettotsky, and their three children and five grandchildren, many happy and healthy years to enjoy his retirement and for continued service to the people.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
PETER M. DOUGLAS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives BACA, BERMAN, CAPPS, CHU, COSTA, S. DAVIS, ESHOO, FARR, FILNER, GARAMENDI, HAHN, HONDA, LEE, LOFGREN, MATSUI, MCNERNEY, MILLER, NAPOLITANO, PELOSI, RICHARDSON, ROYBAL-ALLARD, LORETTA SANCHEZ, SCHIFF, SPEIER, STARK, WATERS, WAXMAN, and WOOLSEY to pay tribute to the life of Peter M. Douglas, who recently passed away at the age of 69. Peter was best known as the long-time director of the California Coastal Commission, serving more than 25 years to protect the incredible California coastline. Peter's devotion to the conservation of this finite and precious resource will benefit generations to come.

Peter was born in Berlin, Germany on Aug. 22, 1942. His family's home was destroyed by Allied bombers in 1944. He immigrated by sea to the United States in 1950, and it was on this trip that he began a lifelong love of the ocean. Peter grew up in Southern California, and in 1965 earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, and later a law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles.

Peter worked for former Democratic Assemblyman Alan Sieroty from Los Angeles, and he was tasked with writing coastal protection legislation. In response to oil spills and heavy coastal development, the public passed Proposition 20 in 1972, which formed the California Coastal Commission. Peter also helped craft the bipartisan Coastal Act in 1976, and the next year joined the commission as deputy director. In 1985, Peter was appointed executive director and served in that role until his recent death.

Peter was instrumental in blocking offshore oil drilling and leasing, preventing unchecked development along California's 1,100-mile coast line, and ensuring public access to beaches. His efforts were often controversial, and members of both parties at times tried to remove him from his post. However, he never swayed from his commitment and passion to protect California coasts.

There is no doubt that California's incredible coastline bears Peter's mark. His influence on coastal issues has been profound, and has set standards for how such a valuable resource can be both used and protected.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the life of Peter M. Douglas, a steadfast protector of the California coast and a true environmental steward.

HONORING RAFAEL CHRISTOPHER
TURNER FOR MORE THAN 10
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring my Deputy District Director, Rafael Christopher Turner, for his 10 years of exemplary and dedicated service on behalf of my constituents in Michigan. Rafael is leaving this month to continue working on behalf of Michigan residents for U.S. Senator CARL LEVIN and it is fitting that we celebrate and recognize his continued service to the public.

I had the opportunity to recruit Rafael for an internship in my Washington, DC office in February 2002 and was immediately impressed with his commitment to public service and extraordinary talent and skills. I have known Rafael's family for years and Rafael was continuing their legacy of making a difference in people's lives as a public servant, community leader and a trusted and valued advisor to me and many others, especially our youth.

After accepting a full-time position as a legislative assistant in May 2002, Rafael worked on vitally important and complex public policy issues, applying his knowledge and dedication to a wide range of legislation important to my constituents. Rafael was eager to return to his hometown of Flint to make a difference in his community and in September 2005 he joined